

September 20, 2005

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Team Thule performs medical evacuation to save civilian's life



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weather forecast

Average Temperature

13 degrees Fahrenheit

Maximum Temperature

43 degrees Fahrenheit

Minimum Temperature

-24 degrees Fahrenheit

Maximum Wind Speed

77 Knots

information provided by

Weather Station Operations

Thule welcomes Air Force's newest NCOsNCO Induction Ceremony
Sept. 15, 2005

Lithograph by 1st Lt. Justin Herman

Chief Master Sgt. Richard Armading administers the noncommissioned officer oath to (from left) Staff Sgt. (sel.) Leigh Smith, Staff Sgt. (sel.) Winnie Thompson, Staff Sgt. (sel.) Steve Hernandez, Staff Sgt. (sel.) Diego Solis and Staff Sgt. (sel.) Brian Nadler during the Thule NCO Induction Ceremony held at the Top of the World Club Thursday.

■ Story by

1st Lt. Justin Herman**821st Air Base Group Public Affairs**

Five Senior Airmen here took the oath and entered the ranks of the Noncommissioned Officer corps in a ceremony at the Top of the World Club ballroom Thursday.

For the newly selected sergeants the event represented the culmination of years of dedication to both their jobs and their fellow Airmen.

According to Staff Sgt. (sel.) Steve Hernandez, 821st Support Squadron, the selectees are ready to face the challenges ahead their new responsibilities will bring.

"It makes me proud," Sergeant (sel.) Hernandez said. "It's been a lot of studying and doing the best

we can at our jobs, but we're ready to move to the next level and surpass."

The Airmen, however, did more than recite words.

"They didn't just read an oath, they accepted the charges," said Master Sgt. Leanne Ray, 821st Air Base Group. "That's something very important. And one NCO may have read them the charges, but in spirit it was all NCOs who were asking them to accept them."

Chief Master Sgt. Richard Armading, 821st Air base Group superintendent, addressed the assembly, highlighting the changes that occurred during his career and what the selectees could expect.

"Change is inevitable, but its how you attack those changes that will determine your success," said Chief Armading "Hit them head

on, guide your troops and you will be successful."

Selectees also took the opportunity to thank those who helped him achieve their goal during their careers.

"A lot of good flight chiefs and supervisors have given us chances at leadership along the way," said Sergeant (sel.) Nadler. "I'm ready for this next stripe because I'm ready to lead as a result."

The Air Force's newest batch of NCOs already has advice for the next generation of younger Airmen looking to earn the stripes.

"Get good skills early on," said Staff Sgt. (sel.) Winnie Thompson. "Have goals and do the best you can in everything you do, and you'll get here."

Airman collecting donations for Red Cross

Donations for Red Cross Hurricane Katrina relief efforts are being collected now through Sept. 30 by Senior Airman Cynthia Rentas, 821st Security Forces Squadron. Donated money will be pooled together and sent to the Red Cross in a certified check. For more information contact Senior Airman Rentas.

Enlisted Quarterly Awards packages

The packages for 821st Support Squadron Senior Noncommissioned officer, NCO and Airman of the Quarter are due to Senior Master Sgt. Jay Waldner no later than 10 a.m. Sept. 22. The boards will be held the next day. Please take this opportunity to recognize the achievements of your Airmen.

Top of the World Club Advisory Board

The Thule Club Advisory Council meeting will be held Sept. 22 at 2 p.m. at the Top of the World Club. Each squadron is encouraged to have a representative in attendance to become a voting member. For more information contact Senior Master Sgt. Jay Waldner.

Combined Federal Campaign

The Thule Combined Federal Federal Campaign kicks off Oct. 3 and runs until Nov. 17. Volunteers are needed to help collect donations and coordinate fundraising efforts. For more information contact Staff Sgt. Desmond Hunter or Airman 1st Class Paulette Smith.

Adopt a Julemand Project

Individuals or organizations are needed to adopt fundraising activities or booths for the Julemand Festival Nov. 19 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers are also needed for general set-up and removal of the decorations. The festival is a carnival-like event with holiday spirit to raise money for the Operation Julemand charity project, started in 1959 by servicemembers to serve local Greenlandic children. For more information contact the base chapel.

Bye Bye Summer BBQ



Photo by 1st Lt. Justin Herman

Col. David Buck, 821st Air Base Group commander, and Marie Frandsen, Danish contractor, flip burgers and Danish hotdogs during the Bye Bye Summer BBQ here Sept. 9. The event marked the end of the summer season, and the 24 hours of sunlight accompanying it, and the beginning of the of the Arctic fall, when temperatures plummet and 20 minutes of daylight is lost per day.

Commander's Team Thule Action Line

■ Answered by
Col. David J. Buck
821st Air Base Group commander

QUESTION:

It's getting cold out there, Sir. What's the official guidance on plugging in our vehicles so we can run our heaters?

- Concerned Caller

ANSWER:

At Thule we have electrical "hot plugs" on all our vehicles to keep our trucks and vans running when the temperature falls below 20 degrees.

You may have heard that you can keep your car idling at all times during the winter for personal comfort, but that's not the case. We have a responsibility to prevent unnecessary engine wear and excessive fuel consumption.

Vehicles that can be left idling include service call, crash and



Courtesy photo

emergency vehicles on official business, buses and taxis, or any other vehicle that doesn't have access to a "hot plug" in weather below -25 degrees. For more information, and a complete look at the regulations, contact Master Sgt. Dennis Sarver at X3144.

DAVID J. BUCK, Colonel, USAF
Commander, 821st Air Base Group

Warren says farewell to most powerful ICBM

■ *Story by*

Senior Airman Lauren Hasinger
90th Space Wing Public Affairs

The era of the Peacekeeper Intercontinental Ballistic Missile, often credited with ending the Cold War, is coming to a close today with the final phase of the deactivation.

The deactivation began October 2002 after President George W. Bush set a plan in motion in 2001 to reduce the country's missile forces from 6,000 to between 1,700 and 2,200. Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed to follow a similar plan.

The Peacekeeper is the most powerful, most accurate missile ever deployed, according to Lt. Col. David Bliesner, 400th Missile Squadron commander.

It is capable of carrying up to 10 independently targeted warheads and was designed to strengthen the ground-based strategic policy of the United States.

The development of the missile system began in 1979. In 1988, the

Peacekeeper became fully operational with 50 missiles deployed to Warren.

Each missile was built at a cost of about \$70 million.

The deactivation is estimated to save the Air Force more than \$600 million through 2010.

"There are certainly conflicting emotions associated with deactivation of Peacekeeper and the 400th Missile Squadron," said Colonel Bliesner.

"Thinking about it on a national and global level, anytime we can reduce the number of nuclear weapons in the world, it is certainly the best thing to do."

Airmen from the 90th Missile Maintenance Group spend about 17 days deactivating each missile, while security forces ensure security of the removal.

Senior Master Sgt. Steven Levin, 90th Maintenance Operation Squadron training flight supervisor, has worked with the Peacekeeper since 1986 when he helped put up the first Peacekeeper site.

Since then he has worked as a Peacekeeper guidance technician, team

chief, quality assurance and was most recently in charge of the Peacekeeper deactivation office which developed the Phase 1 deactivation plan in 2002.

"When we brought it on line, it was very exciting," said Sergeant Levin. "It has served its purpose and completed its mission."

After deactivation is complete, missileers with the 400 MS will be either retrained as Minuteman III crewmembers or reassigned to other parts of the Air Force.

"There is a sense of nostalgia seeing something so powerful go away," said Capt. Carrie Owens, 400 MS missileer. "We are all so proud of it."

Capt. Lee Taylor, 400 MS missileer, agrees.

"We've spent a lot of our time here [in the missile field]," said Captain Taylor. "There's a lot of pride that goes into this job."

The final deactivation brings an end to the Peacekeeper's more than 16-year history at Warren.

"We're proud of what we've done," said Sergeant Levin. "It's time to move on. The mission is complete."

Excavation rescues historical Air Force artifact



Photos by Lt. Col. Joseph Dennis

A 50-year-old sled once used to carry Airmen and equipment from here to Camp Century, once located 100 miles into the Greenlandic icecap, is excavated by American and Danish members of Team Thule Thursday in an effort to recover and restore the historic artifact. The sled will be permanently displayed near the Thule Museum, open year-round to display items collected during more than 53 years of history at the Defense Department's northernmost base.



Reflections in an Icecap asks, 'What's your mission?'

Understand your purpose for success

■ Viewpoint by

Capt. Brint Woodruff
821st Security Forces Squadron commander

Why are you here?
I presented this question at a recent commander's call and only a few members provided an answer that somewhat resembled the unit's mission statement.

For those without an answer my next question was, "What is it that you do on a daily basis to help accomplish the mission if you don't know what the mission is?"

It can be easy to assume that everyone understands and believes in their purpose or mission, but as leaders, we have a responsibility to ensure members of the unit do. And as members of a team, if you don't know what your mission is, you need to find out.

This advice seems simple and overstated; however, I would encourage all to take an informal poll in units to see if co-workers truly understand their purpose in mission accomplishment. The answers given may surprise.

At Thule Air Base, the northernmost U.S. military installation in the world, we almost three months in total darkness. The remoteness of the base can provide a feeling of isolation like no other in the world. I have never witnessed anything similar. The best way to diminish this feeling of isolation is to stay focused on the mission, so it's imperative that unit members know and

understand their unit's purpose of existence.

In addition to making sure everyone understood the mission, I asked them, "What is it that you do on a daily basis to improve the way in which the mission is carried out?"

The intent is to not accept the status quo. If we are not aggressively focused on improving our areas of responsibility, it is easy to settle into the mindset that it's always been the way it is, so we don't need to change it. When the mission is understood and we are actively looking to improve the way of doing business, positive results are achieved.

This message may seem overly simple. After all, everyone should know what their unit's mission is, right? There are many times in this ever-shrinking Air Force that we are asked to do more with less; I am sure that most everyone can attest to how busy they are. I myself am often guilty of becoming so busy with day-to-day work that I focus on just getting through the day as opposed to how I can improve the overall mission.

Make it a priority, however, to take time to reflect on the question "Why am I here," and if you really want to get insightful, apply it to your personal life. You may be surprised at the answer, and even more surprised by the positive results when you ask the follow-on question of "What can I do today to improve myself, my family, and my community?" Each time we do, Airmen set themselves on the right track to a rewarding experience for themselves and others, no matter how remote your assignment is.



Photo by 1st Lt. Justin Herman

Subszero

Chaplain Kris Cox, 821st Air Base Group, samples gourmet sausage at the ribbon cutting ceremony of deli he named here Friday. The newly opened Dundas Deli offers more than two dozen assortments of food, including fresh fish and steaks, roasted rotisserie chickens, salads and a variety of curries, spices and sauces.

According to Anders Borgaard Jensen, Danish contractor, the facility brings a touch of home to Thule year-round. "This is luxury," said Jensen. "On the weekends back Denmark, we make large meals and invite friends and family over, and we would eat things like this. To have this here now is luxury."

Thule Times grills Civil Engineering...

What's your dream project for Thule Air Base?



"A pink flamingo slaughter facility."

1st Lt.
Chris Schnipke



"A theater with stadium seating."

Master Sgt.
James Cobbs



"An indoor track for recreational running."

Tech. Sgt.
Gerald Gromko



"Being from the South, a fully-stocked Super Walmart."

Tech. Sgt.
Nathan Zaleski



"Air conditioned buildings."

Master Sgt.
Guillermo Martinez

The Thule Times' Spouses' Corner

■ Commentary by
Stella Buck
Team Thule Spouse

I was fortunate to make the trip to Thule last month through space-available travel, and all I can say is 'wow!' My hope is that each of you can take advantage of this opportunity to visit Thule Air Base as well so you can see first hand that our spouses stationed there are living a once-in-a-lifetime experience and are well-cared for. With that said, I would love to share my experience with you.

Hopefully, you are all receiving electronic copies of the Thule Times, but if not, please notify Lt. Justin Herman, chief of Public Affairs, so he may add you to the distribution list. Justin's doing great things with the base paper and it's important that we remain in-the-loop regarding what happens there, including

social events, awards and challenges.

Your input for future Spouses' Corner features is greatly appreciated. Share your favorite recipe, let us know family achievements, or offer advice on facing the challenges of a remote tour. We're only limited by your imagination and operational security. We're looking forward to hearing from you, and until then, peace be with you. (Stella Buck can be reached by email at ThuleSpouses@hotmail.com)



Col. David Buck and Stella



with Charlotte Jensen
Hometown: Copenhagen, Denmark

What's the difference between Danish-style dining and the fast-food American style?

Danish people go out for dinner to enjoy good company with their friends and loved ones; the food is just a good excuse. If they are served too quickly they may be offended, feeling rushed. We try to create this atmosphere at the Top of the World Club Dining Room, giving time between courses for people to not only eat, but enjoy their wine and socialize.



Col. David J. Buck, 821st Air Base Group commander
1st Lt. Justin T. Herman, chief, Public Affairs and Protocol

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2nd Lt. Corey Trusty
12th Space Warning Squadron

Nickname:

Trust

Hometown:

Virginia Beach, Va.

Time at Thule:

Three and a half months

Job Description:

Detect and track ICBM launches and any Earth orbiting objects

Favorite Activities:

Writing, reading, listening to music, playing basketball and exercise

Hobbies:

Writing

Goals:

"To become a physician, write books people actually want to read, and ultimately become a professor at my alma mater, Tuskegee University"

Words of Wisdom:

"All it takes for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

Most Memorable Thule Day:

"The first Thursday of The Coffee Shop there were so many people there. I was so nervous no one would show, but they did. Since then there are new faces in attendance each Thursday night speaking their hearts' desires."

Danish Defense Minister tours Thule

Says base "embodies the spirit of the Defense Agreement"

■ Story by

1st Lt. Justin Herman

821st Air Base Group Public Affairs

A delegation of top Danish Ministry of Defense officials visited here Aug. 31 as part of an orientation of the multi-national Team Thule community and facilities.

Soren Gade, the Defense Minister of Denmark, toured the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System, the Air Force Satellite Control Network tracking station and other sites, which are operated and maintained by teams of U.S., Danish, Canadian and Greenlandic nationals.

According to Mr. Gade, Team Thule embodies the spirit of the Danish-American Agreement on the Defense of Greenland. The document was signed in 1951 and led to the construction of Thule Air Base.

"It's very important that if you can do something to protect your people, you do it," Mr. Gade said. "I've come here to see how business is done, and I am pleased."

Denmark is a key ally in the Global War on Terrorism, with more than 500 troops currently stationed in Iraq. Of the approximately 800 individuals living

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Photo by 1st Lt. Justin Herman

Maj. Steve Gibson, 12th Space Warning Squadron director of operations, explains an intercontinental ballistic missile launch training simulation performed by Tech. Sgt. Ezra Dack, 12th SWS space console operator, for Soren Gade, Defense Minister of Denmark, here Aug. 31. Mr. Gade and a delegation of policy makers from Copenhagen toured key locations at Thule as part of an orientation of the Arctic base's multi-national community, which includes people from the United States, Denmark, Greenland and Canada.

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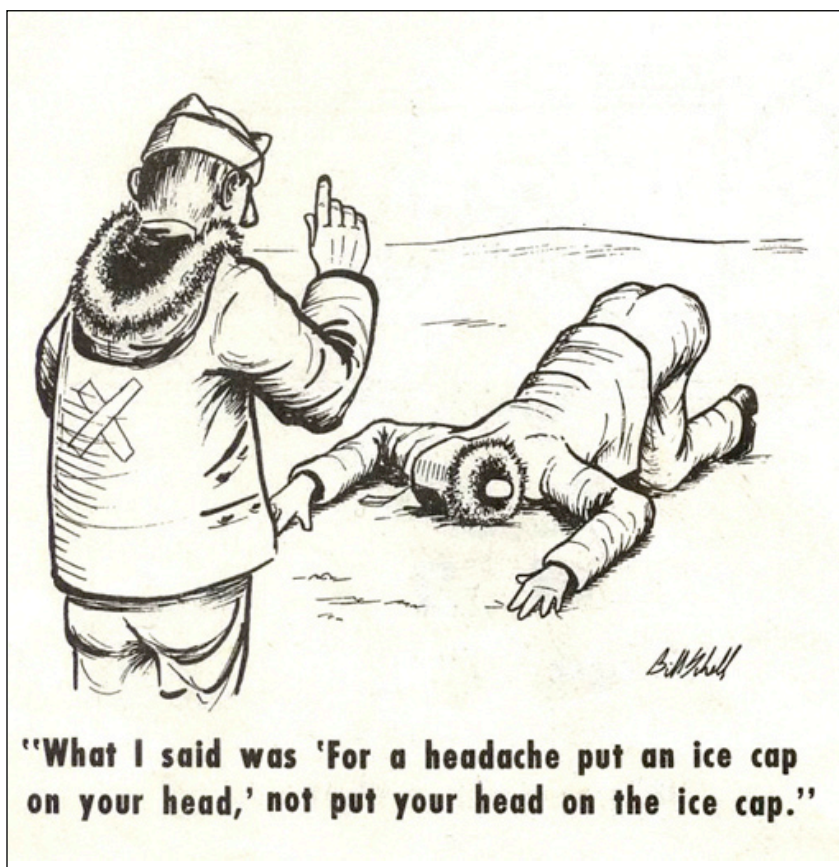
here, more than 500 are Danes.

Col. David Buck, 821st Air Base Group commander, praised the continued support from Denmark, both here and in GWOT, and highlighted the benefits shared as a result of the relationship.

"I am personally thankful for the partnership our Airmen share with the Danes, Greenlanders and Canadians," Colonel Buck said. "Whether it's assuring we accomplish the Team Thule mission here in the Arctic or betting on there being stiff competition on bowling night, it's proven time and time again we can count on each other."

Gade also noted the additional benefits of the diverse community here, working together as a result of the 54-year-old agreement.

"It can be difficult to get a modern education in northwest Greenland, but Thule has done a great job educating Greenlanders [with different trades] they can bring back to their local villages," Mr. Gade said. "Sometimes getting the job done here can mean just trying to adapt to survive. The people who live here are made of something special."

Blast from the Past

Cartoon by Bill Schell

Cartoons from the Thule Times archive are as true to life now as they were decades ago when first printed. Please send a digital copy of historic Thule Times cartoons, photos or items of interest for possible republication to the editor at 821ABG.PA@thule.af.mil.

the polar profile



Misty Avilla

OSSS Site Admin Assistant

Contracting Company:

Harris Technical Services Corporation

Nickname:

Princess

Hometown:

Tucson, Ariz.

Job Description:

"I'm currently transitioning from the Det. 3 supply technician to the Det. 3 administrative assistant."

Time spent at Thule :

A year and a half

Hobbies:

"My favorite thing to do is socialize and hang out with my friends. Besides that I like to draw, write, listen to music and play cards, darts and dominoes."

Favorite part of Thule:

"The people! I've met so many great people and there's constantly new people coming in."

Words of Wisdom:

"Sometimes its smarter to say nothing at all."

Goals:

"To finish my degree in Business Management and Marketing. Eventually I'd like to pursue a career in product promotion and advertising."

Emergency medical evacuation saves life

■ *Story by*

1st Lt. Justin Herman

821st Air Base Group Public Affairs

When an elderly passenger aboard a world-traveling ship needed emergency medical care in one of the most extreme locations on the map, Team Thule answered the call to stabilize her condition and emergency medical evacuate her home.

Capt. Cory Baker, 821st Air Base Group medical liaison officer, received the message Sept. 2 that a 78-year-old woman aboard an "extreme vacation" ocean liner, which takes guests from the North Pole to the Amazon River Basin and Antarctica, had a critical pneumonic condition that was deteriorating.

"The situation was dire," Captain Baker said. "She was going to be in a lot worse shape if she didn't get care quickly, and Thule's new 19,000-square-foot hospital is definitely the best facility she can come to."

The recently constructed medical facility here contains state-of-the-art equipment for emergency treatment, dentistry and other care. It is staffed by a team of both Airmen and Danish medical professionals.

Vladimir Kraechna, the ship's Ukrainian doctor, transported the patient and her daughter from the vessel into a rubber raft and set off across the iceberg-filled North Star Bay. A Thule emergency medical response team was waiting on shore.

"We were in the middle of the Arctic with no medical facilities," said Mr. Kraechna. "We tried to stabilize her, but we had to find a place where help could be arranged and a plane could get her to mainland [Canada] and more extensive facilities."

The patient and accompanying party was rushed aboard an ambulance to the hospital here where her deteriorating condition was first stabilized, then improved through medical technicians'



Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Somheil

A Thule medical response team here responds to an emergency evacuation of a civilian passenger from an ocean liner traveling through the area Sept. 2. The 78-year-old woman was shuttled from the ship to the shoreline by rubber raft and rushed by ambulance to Thule's new state-of-the-art hospital where her pneumonic condition stabilized and improved through the medical technicians' care and treatment. A Canadian aircraft transported the patient and her daughter to a larger medical facility on the eastern North American mainland the following day.

care and treatment.

"It's once in a blue moon we have the opportunity to help a civilian who doesn't work at Thule [and] is traveling through the Arctic," said Captain Baker. "But

4 a.m. the next morning for the patient's medical evacuation. A Canadian aircraft landed on the flight line and transported the stabilized patient and her daughter to a larger medical facility on the eastern North American mainland.

In the case of an emergency medical evacuation for military personnel here, hospital staff coordinates with the Theater Patient Movement Requirements Center located at Ramstein AB, Germany, and Tri-Care. However, the emergency response team, Airfield Operations and hospital staff successfully responded to the unexpected civilian medical evacuation when it counted, Captain Baker said.

"I don't know what kind of medical treatment you normally find this far above the Arctic Circle, but its good we're here and ready," he said.

(Tech. Sgt. John Somheil contributed to the preceding article.)

“She was going to be in a lot worse shape if she didn't get care quickly, and Thule's new 19,000-square-foot hospital is definitely the best facility she can come to.”

Capt. Cory Baker
821st Support Squadron

we're always ready 24/7 with a doctor and nurse on-call.”

Airfield Operations was ready to coordinate an emergency plane landing by

Flockings will continue until morale improves



Photos by 1st Lt. Justin Herman

Tech. Sgt. Charles Desaulniers (left) sits back as his office is decorated with pink flamingoes, and Staff Sgt. Jessica Palmer (right) is told "You've been flocked" by members of the Thule Sergeants Association. The TSA is flocking offices to raise money for base events including the Airmen Appreciation Dinner.



Photos by 1st Lt. Justin Herman

'Birdman and BD' to raise relief funds

Staff Sgt. Aubrey "Birdman" Buhr (left), Master Sgt. Byron "BD" Grant and friends work the DJ booth Wednesday during their weekly radio show on FM97.1.

'Birdman and BD in the Morning' will air Sept. 28 from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., during which they will be accepting donations for Hurricane relief efforts coordinated by the Chapel. The show will feature music, parodies and phone-in callers. Staff Sgt. Jason Jeitler will also be airing a special charitable edition of his show afterwards.

Here ye, Here ye!



Courtesy photo

Maj. Steve Gibson and his spouse Lonnie enjoy dinner at the Top of the World Club during her recent space-available travel visit here.

Major Gibson is pleased to announce Lonnie's birthday, celebrated Sept. 13.



Photo by 1st Lt. Justin Herman

Thule Slippin'

Staff Sgt. Tajhon Hudson takes a face dive off the entrance to the ice caves near P-Mountain Sept. 10.

More than two dozen Airmen and civilians trekked to the ice caves, which tunnel beneath the Greenlandic icecap, in the last Thule Trip to the caves this season.